(c) whether Government also propose to upgrade other important airports in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. The Government of India at present has no plan to construct new airports in Delhi, Chennai and Kolkata. Keeping in view the impending saturation of the existing Mumbai airport, a proposal to set up a second airport at Mumbai has been initiated by the Government of Maharashtra.

(b) However, the existing metro airports at Delhi and Mumbai have been approved for restructuring and modernization through the joint venture route, wherein Airports Authority of India and Got Public Sector Undertakings together will hold 26% stake and the balance 74% stake will be held by the Joint Venture Partners selected through a global competitive bidding process. Invitation to Register Expression of Interest (ITREOI) was issued on 17th February 2004. In response to ITREOI, ten parties registered their interest out of which nine parties were short-listed. Request For Proposal and other transaction Documents have been issued on 1st April 2005 to the short-listed nine parties.

(c) Yes, Sir. It has also been decided to take up development of 25 tentatively selected non-metro airports in phases with focus on airside and city side development.

E-Governance of Panchayats

*319. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are successful in facilitating all Panchayats with Information Technology as per the resolution adopted in the Seventh Round Table Conference of Ministers in-charge of Panchayati Raj;

(b) if so, how many Panchayats in the country have this facility; and

(c) whether the use of this technology is helping in good governance?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is preparing a mission mode Project for e-Governance at the Gram Panchayat level under the National e-Governance Plan. It is envisaged that this will enable all

Panchayats in the country to progressively obtain the benefits of Information Technology in implementing e-Governance solutions with reference to identified services delivered at the Panchayat level. This is a new initiative. A few Panchayats in States have been implementing Pilots for e-Governance at the Panchayat level under initiatives of the States concerned. However, it is under the Central Plan that common standards and benchmarks will be developed so as to ensure the integrated application of Information Technology to further good governance at the Panchayat level.

Oil refinery in Rajasthan

*320. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has proposed to set up a 7.5 million tonne refinery at Kausaria in Barmer district of Rajasthan, with an investment of Rs. 7,967 crores, as a joint venture with its subsidiary, Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd., U.K. based Cairn Energy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including its present status?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Based on oil discoveries made by the Cairn Energy consortium in Barmer district of Rajasthan, the Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)/Mangalore Refinery Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) have expressed interest in setting up a refinery with a capacity of 7.5 Million Metric Tonne per annum. Two other Oil Public Sector Undertakings, namely, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), have also expressed interest in setting up a well head refinery at the site in Rajasthan. These companies have approached Government to designate them as the Government nominee for purchase of crude oil under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) for the block RJ-ON-90/1.

Any investment plan for such a refinery can only be firmed up after Government have disignated their nominee for purchase of crude oil under the PSC. This is expected to be decided shortly.